

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 /068 W
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P R 152121Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1928
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4946

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CH, CA
SUBJECT: RECALL OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AMBASSADORS

REF: (A) OTTAWA 4746; (B) STATE 291867

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN DEPT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EXPECTS THAT DEPARTING PRC AMBASSADOR, CHANG WEN-CHIN, WILL RECEIVE NEW OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT. EXTAFF VIEWS CURRENT RECALL OF PRC AMBASSADORS AS REFLECTING, TO CERTAIN EXTENT, NORMAL ROTATION PROCEDURES AS WELL AS CONSEQUENCE OF LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY AND GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MAKIN, ACTING CHINA DESK OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING VIEWS ON DEPARTURE OF PRC AMBASSADOR CHANG WEN-CHIN.

3. ACCORDING TO LATEST EXTAFF INFORMATION, CHANG WILL LEAVE OTTAWA DEC 20 FOR PEKING AND REASSIGNMENT. ALTHOUGH MAKIN INDICATED EXTAFF HAS NO FIRM INDICATION OF CHANG ONWARD ASSIGNMENT, HE SAID THEY HAVE IMPRESSION CHANG WILL BE ASSIGNED OVERSEAS RATHER THAN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PEKING SINCE DURING FAREWELL CALLS AT EXTAFF HE INDICATED HE WILL LEAVE PART OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS IN OTTAWA. CHINESE EMBOFF TALKING WITH DCM AT RECENT RECEPTION ALSO IMPLIED THAT CHANG WILL BE REASSIGNED ABROAD.

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4. MAKIN EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT CHANG COULD BE ASSIGNED

EITHER TO PRC MISSION IN NEW YORK OR, PERHAPS, TO WASHINGTON SINCE TWO OF CHANG'S PREDECESSORS HAVE MOVED FROM OTTAWA TO US POSTINGS.

5. MAKIN ASSUMES THAT CHANG HAS GOOD INDICATIONS OF HIS IMMEDIATE FUTURE SINCE HIS WIFE, WHO WAS COUNSELOR AT PRC EMBASSY, LEFT FOR PEKING SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND PRESUMABLY IS KEEPING HIM INFORMED BOTH OF SITUATION THERE AND HIS ASSIGNMENT PROSPECTS.

6. EXTAFF TAKES FAIRLY RELAXED VIEW OF PRC AMBASSADORIAL MOVES, ACCORDING TO MAKIN (REF B). HE SAID THAT AT LEAST SEVERAL OF THE AMBASSADORS BEING SWITCHED (CHANG INCLUDED) HAVE REACHED THE END OF NORMAL THREE YEAR TOURS. HE ADDED THAT CHANGES AT TOP BOTH IN PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY AND IN COUNTRY HAVE PRESUMABLY HAD BEARING ON TRANSFERS, BUT THAT NORMAL ROTATION PROCEDURES, IN EXTAFF VIEW, ARE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR. CHANG HAS IMPRESSED EXTAFF OFFICIALS AS AN UNUSUALLY SEASONED AND CAPABLE BUREAUCRAT/DIPLOMAT BUT, ACCORDING TO MAKIN, HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE STRONG POLITICAL BENT OR ANY KIND OF POLITICAL FOLLOWING.

ENDERS

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